

Appl. No. 10/502,110

Attorney Docket No. 10555-085

**II. Remarks**

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested. After entering this amendment, claims 1-8 and 20-27 remain pending.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

The Examiner's indication that claims 1-8 are allowed is gratefully acknowledged. Additionally, the Examiner indicated that claims 20 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. With regard to claims 20 and 26, these claims are now presented in independent form including all the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Since dependent claims necessarily include all the limitations of their intervening claims, it is submitted that this amendments of claims 20 and 26 are not narrowing amendments and do not give rise to any estoppel issues with regard to their interpretation under the doctrine of equivalents or limitations on that doctrine.

The remaining claims have been amended to depend on claims 20 or 26 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons given in support of claims 20 and 26.



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*Conclusion*

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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